cannot be imported except against an import licence.

Market Survey by ITPO in South Africa

720. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has recently concluded a market survey in South Africa;

(b) if so, the itemes identified as a result of this survey and possibility of organising trade development programmes such as trade fairs and exhibitions, investment, joint venture to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. India Trade Promotion Organisation conducted a market survey in South Africa in January, 1994.

(b) The survey has identified following items for export to South Africa:—

Garments, textiles, home furnishings made-ups, rice, beans, lentils, spices, coffee, computer software and hardware, sports and exercise bicycles, handtools and machine tools, agricultural implements and diesel pumping sets, builders' hardware including bathroom and sanitary fittings, electrical fittings, industrial fasteners, surgical and medical equipments, stuffed toys, handicrafts, utility-cum-decoratives, leather goods, footwear, forgings & castings, bulk drugs, chemicals & dyes and earth moving equipments.

The surveys has also dealt with the possibility of organising exclusive Indian Exhibition or participating in some trade fairs in South Africa such as SAITEX in addition to exploring the possibilities of investment, setting up joint ventures and strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries on a long term basis.

(c) The Government had adopted the following measures to boost trade with South Africa:—

(i) creating better awareness about Indian goods by organising participation in international fairs/ exhibitions in the region;

(ii) exchange of industry and trade delegations;

(iii) holding of exclusive Indian exhibitions/fairs;

(iv) holding of regional conference of commercial representative conference to identify emerging opportunities;

(v) holding periodic official level bilateral discussions to resolve bottlenecks.

Ceiling on cultivation of Virginia Tobacco

721. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ceiling has been fixed on the cultivation of Virginia tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of tobacco exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The authorised crop size of Flue-cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco fixed by the Tobacco Board for 1995-96 season in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Karnataka is 100.87 Million Kgs.

(c) Quantity of Tabacco exported and

the foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years are as follows:—

(Quantity in Tons and Value in Rs.crores)

Item	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Tobacco	88253	474.0	104676	461.2	53750	254.8

Interest accrued on the Funds of MPLADS

722. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued necessary orders to credit the interest accrued on the money of MPLADS kept in banks, to the account of the respective MPs funds;

(b) if so, whether the District Collectors actually implemented these orders; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) Instructions have been issued to all the Collectors asking them not to utilise the interest amount accrued on MPLADS funds for any purpose till a decision in this regard is conveyed to them. No such orders asking them to credit the interest to the account of respective MP's fund have been issued.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The delay in the decision about the manner in which the interest amount is to be utilised is due to the fact that the matter involves consultation with the other concerned Ministries.

Presiding Officers for Central Government Industrial Tribunal (CGIT) and Labour Court

723. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka High Court directed the Union Government to fill the post of the Presiding Officers for the Central Government Industrial Tribunal (CGIT) and Labour Court by October end;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the reasons for keeping these posts vacant over a year depriving 5 lakh workers in public sector undertakings to get due justice?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) After obtaining the approval of the competent authority an offer of appointment was issued to Shri Mohanachandran, Additional District Judge, Krishnagiri, on 30.10.95. The High Court of Madras has issued orders on 01.12.95 to the effect that he may be relieved on or before 10th December, 1995 so as to enable him to join as Presiding Officer.

(c) The post of Presiding Officer, CGIT-cum-Labour Court, Bangalore fell vacant on 01.11.94, consequent upon expiry of tenure of the then incumbent Shri M.B. Vishwanath. In order to select his successor action was initiated on 01.06.94 when the High Courts of neighbouring States were requested to make nominations of willing and eligible judicial Officers as per the provisions contained in the I.D.Act, 1947. The delay occurred due to non-receipt of nominations of judicial officers.